

October 9, 2022
Daniel 8:1-27
A Ram, A Goat, And A Little Horn

PRINCIPLES, PERTINENT INFORMATION, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The date of writing the book of Daniel is c.a. 530 BC. The book is written with such accuracy, so true to history, that secular historians cannot accept the early date of writing. To them it seems impossible for it to have been written beforehand. However, there is no denying the accuracy of the Bible, it is infallible, without error.

God is teaching us to know and believe in the truth of Scripture and always stand for what is right according to Biblical teaching. This prophecy was made in 530 BC and carried out in 167 BC. The future, yet to come prophecies, are just as reliable. This prophecy was made 363 years before it came to pass! God's Word is TRUTH.

God has a plan and He is in control, knowing every intricate detail. So far, everything that He has predetermined up to this point has come to pass and so will the future prophecies of His Word, all of them. Do not be caught unawares.

God is so in the details that He knew how many seconds you will live on this earth before you were ever born! Read **Psalm 139** and you will see this truth spelled out for all to read. God is in the details.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the Temple in 167 BC. He is a "type" of or a "foreshadowing" of the coming Antichrist. God gives us warnings to be heeded.

The Antichrist will be like Antiochus in so many ways but much worse. What Antiochus did was certainly an abomination and Jesus speaks of Daniel's Prophecy as having a still future fulfillment, meditate on **Matthew 24:15-31**; **Mark 13:14**. Be prepared.

The following information gleaned from the *Believer's Study Bible*.

The river Ulai is at the foot of the highlands of Iran at the beginning of the Tigris River Valley. The Ulai was a canal that flowed northwest of the city between the Kerkha and the Abdizful Rivers.

This second vision highlighted the transition between the rising Persian Empire and the Grecian Empire of Alexander. The ram represents the Persian Empire. The Persian Empire gets to be the dominant one of the two.

The goat. The Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great. Notable is the swiftness of domination by the goat.

The goat's horn is broken, this marks the untimely death of Alexander. The four horns represent four generals: Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus I.

Suddenly one of the goat's horns grows greatly. This little horn sprang from one of the four and especially affected the Glorious Land, namely, Israel.

This little horn represents Antiochus IV Epiphanes. He was from Syria. He is not to be confused with the little horn of **7:8**, who is the Antichrist of the end time. But it can be said that Antiochus was a "type" of or "foreshadowing" of the Antichrist.

Antiochus viciously attacked Jerusalem killing 50k people, he sold as slaves another 40k. He went into the temple and slew a pig on the altar, its blood was strewn over the entire temple area. He had prostitutes in the temple and used them in worship of false gods and he also forbade observance of the Sabbath, reading of Scripture, and circumcision. This is referred to in **vv 10-12**.

A holy conversation is held, the subject of how long this kind of rebellion should continue, 2,300 days, about 6.3 years is stated. At the end of that time span Judas Maccabaeus cleansed the temple.

Application:

Someone once said, why pray when we can worry! When a believer reads and understands this prophecy he or she could easily begin to worry about hard times ahead. Lots of people are concerned about all of the chaos going on in the world around us these days. So, what's a Christian to do? Walk by faith confident that the Lord is good and that He takes care of His children even in the midst of troubles and terror. Brothers and sisters meditate on this instruction, "7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." **James 4:7-10 NKJV**.

After you have meditated on this passage consider taking time to study the words of Hebrews **chapter 10**.